

MASS. HS 75.2: IN 8

Intensive Parole for Sex Offenders (I.P.S.O.)



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Intensive Parole for Sex Offenders

The Massachusetts Parole Board, recognizing the unique demands of supervising sex offenders, established Intensive parole for Sex Offenders (IPSO) as a pilot program.

The Intensive Parole for Sex Offenders program was first implemented in February of 1996. The Massachusetts Parole Board, with the assistance of the national Institute of Corrections and the Crime and Justice Foundation, created the first IPSO team.

A team of specially-trained IPSO Parole Officers provides a structured system combining intensive supervision with strict enforcement techniques. This team approach assures the availability of an officer at any time who is very familiar with the parolee.

The Specialized approach to monitoring the behavior of sex offenders establishes a structured environment which restricts the parolees' activities while simultaneously encouraging responsible behavior and positive adjustment to life in the community.

As a result, recidivism among IPSO parolees has remained dramatically low. During its first five years, not one of the sex offenders supervised in the IPSO program was revoked due to commission of a sex offense. Much of this success is attributed to the excellent collaboration among the IPSO team the State Police, sex offender treatment counselors and the Department of Correction, which share information about parolees in the IPSO program. The cooperation of local police and other law enforcement agencies also has contributed to be effectiveness.

The IPSO Team uses these enforcement techniques and supervision methods:

- Sex offender registration
- Frequent, unannounced visits to the parolee's home, work, counseling and community
- Mandatory sex offender counseling
- Electronic monitoring
- Curfews
- Polygraph testing
- Random urinalysis testing for drug and alcohol use
- Travel, motor vehicle and driving restrictions
- Maintenance of mandatory daily diaries
- Interagency cooperation and collaboration

These requirements promote public safety by making parolees accountable for their whereabouts and activities. They also have a deterrent effect on their behavior while on parole. The IPSO team's specialized supervision techniques have proven highly effective in the supervision of sex offenders.

Massachusetts Parole Board

Mission Statement

The Massachusetts Parole Board, as an integral component of the criminal justice system, promotes public safety by the return of the offenders to the community through supervised, conditional release, so that a successful transition from confinement to discharge from parole provides a basis for continued responsible conduct.

The **MISSION** of the Massachusetts Parole Board is achieved by:

- Identifying those parole eligible offenders for whom there is sufficient indication that confinement has served its purposes and setting conditions of parole.
- Providing supervision and assistance to the offender and direction to relevant services that promote responsible conduct.
- Enforcing compliance with parole conditions through the timely application of appropriate sanctions, including return to confinement.
- Giving valuable and timely recommendations to the Governor on matters involving executive clemency.

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